

Wounded vets mingle with blind folks, seeing eye dogs

BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron Staff

Laughter, smiles and good company from man and beast filled the air at the Canine Corners Dog Park in La Mesa, Calif. Feb. 2.

A new program called Paws for Healing made it possible for four depot Marines from Naval Medical Center San Diego to spend an afternoon with 12 blind people and their canine companions.

The idea for the program was initiated when an injured service member at NMCSD approached Anne E. Whittington, a diabetes program manager at NMCSD, and asked her to pet her seeing-eye dog.

"He had a stutter and it would have just broken my heart to say no, so I let him pet my dog," said Whittington. "Almost immediately his stutter went away."

Whittington, sparked with curiosity by the therapeutic aspects of interaction be-



Jake, left, and Karl, both graduates of The Seeing Eye dog school in New Jersey, spent an afternoon keeping wounded veterans from Naval Medical Center San Diego company at the Canine Corner Dog Park in La Mesa, Calif. Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

tween her dog and injured service members, began letting her dog visit injured Marines on a regular occurrence.

Soon the regular visits developed into letting Marines come along to the dog park, according to Whittington.

Marines that accompanied the blind people to the park welcomed the chance to venture from the hospital and to take in

the warm San Diego.

"I used to have two dogs at home, and I absolutely loved them. In the Marine Corps, you don't get to have dogs around as much," said Lance Cpl. Mike Calia. "It was definitely a lot of fun, and it has a therapeutic aspect."

Inviting Marines to come along on the trips is something the blind people wel-

comed for the company and conversation.

"This is just something we can contribute to the military," said Scott Leason, dog owner. "Marines see us as disabled, and they see how we live well, and they understand they can do the same."

The day finished with the Marines serving everyone food and sitting together for lunch.

Spouses link up through depot program

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF JANOWIEC
Press Chief

Military spouses joined together Saturday at the Marine Corps Family Team Building Classroom in Building 14 for a meeting where they gained friendships and gathered information about the Marine Corps.

The all-volunteer, team-mentoring program L.I.N.K.S. stands for Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills, and is designed by spouses for spouses.

Each quarterly session is unique because of the individuals who attend. Every person brought personal experiences, anecdotes and solutions toward life in the Marine Corps from a spouse's point of view.

"You can be a Marine Corps spouse for years and not have a clue about it. I was one of those," said Natalie B. Francisco, Marine Corps Family Team Building coordinator and Key Volunteer Network trainer.

The program provided pertinent information in a re-

laxed, first-name basis atmosphere, where everyone had a chance to laugh and participate. Topics during the day ranged from the history, traditions and language of the Marine Corps to enhancing communication skills within the family, according to Francisco.

Francisco's husband would often leave for the day and mentioned he was going to a dog and pony show, which alluded to the pomp and circumstance of the Marine Corps within the civilian community while he was on inspector and instructor duty.

"For 10 years he said it, and one time I asked him what it was," said Francisco. "I had always thought they were taking dogs and ponies somewhere."

During the session, spouses received tools and tips to help them survive separations and deployments. They also learned how to make the most of their paychecks and received training in understanding the Leave and Earnings Statement.

"You may not be deploying now, but your husband

may in the next few years," said Angelia M. Gates, team leader, Marine Corps Family Team Building.

Gates said she could have benefited from L.I.N.K.S. when she married into the Marine Corps six years ago. She didn't know how to read an LES until forced to when her husband deployed. Now she is out to help others so they don't have to go through the same troubles.

"I first went to L.I.N.K.S. in 2003 when I was in Okinawa, (Japan)," said Gates. "I became a captive audience and decided I needed to know more about the Marine Corps."

Those who attended the session received extra benefits of free, pre-arranged childcare, refreshments and lunch. By the end of the day, everyone left with more confidence because of the knowledge and friendships that were built, according to Gates.

To learn more about L.I.N.K.S., call Gates at (619) 524-0916 or e-mail her at angelia0802@yahoo.com. The next session is scheduled for April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

He's a 'goofy' kid whose life wasn't great. But then he fell in love with the Marine Corps.



CG'S CUP

Season semi-finals. See who's closer to the cup.

Best Damn Sports Show honors Marines

BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

Drill instructors and wounded Marines from the depot visited the Best Damn Sports Show Period at Fox Television Studios in Los Angeles Jan. 18.

Highlighted guests during the show included Pat Croce, former president of the Philadelphia 76ers, hockey player Jeremy Rhoenick from the Los Angeles Kings and football player Joey Porter from the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"I have never been to anything like this. I didn't know it took so much work," said Staff Sgt. Miguel Betancourt, Company E drill instructor. "We had to clap a lot."

Croce, Rhoenick and hosts recognized

Marines and entertained the audience during the show and commercial breaks with jokes and conversation.

"It's really good that someone is looking out for us," said Staff Sgt. Francisco Ortega, Co. E drill instructor. "Especially the wounded Marines from Balboa."

Marvin Winters, United Warriors Survivors Foundation's operations officer, scheduled the visit for the Marines through host, Rob Dibble, who was helping the foundation raise money during Christmas.

"We had a lot of support from him in Long Beach, and then he asked me to bring some of the Marines who had been injured to the show. So I called the depot and scheduled for the Marines to come,"

said Winters.

The hosts showed their appreciation by taking time after the show to meet Marines, shake hands and answer questions

"I absolutely love the Marines and what they do for the country," said host Rodney Peete after the show.

Dibble had previously taken a trip to Iraq to meet many of the soldiers, sailors and Marines in combat.

"It was really awesome going to Iraq and meeting all the troops out there. I say the more support for out troops, the better," said Dibble. "And I'm really glad that the Marines came down to do the show with us."

The show aired on the Fox channel Jan. 18.



Depot drill instructors and wounded vets attached to the depot visited the Best Damn Sports Show Period at Fox Television Studios in Los Angeles Jan. 18. Guests included Pat Croce and NHL star Jeremy Rhoenick. Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Educator season begins on depot

BY LANCE CPL. KAITLYN M. SCARBORO
Chevron staff

Educators from Recruiting Stations Salt Lake City and Orange County, Calif., toured the depot and surrounding recruit training areas Jan. 29 to Feb. 3, marking the depot's first weeklong Educators' Workshop of the year.

The depot hosts 12 workshops each year, inviting about 900 high school counselors, teachers, principals and coaches from the Western Recruiting Region to view recruits in training.

Educators began the workshop with a tour of the depot, including the commanding general's welcoming brief and lunch with recruits who enlisted from an educator's area.

"I didn't really know what this was all about. Just coming here, I have a better respect for the recruiter, the recruits and the whole Corps," said Hazel Grace Tudela, a counselor from Marianas-Saipan, Guam.

Wednesday, educators were bused to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for a tour of Weapons and Field Training Battalion followed by a tour of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Thursday.

Guam educators, expecting several thousand Marines to be stationed on the island, said they were grateful for a chance to better understand their new scheduled visitors.

"It gives us a better perspective. We give them more respect and truly welcome them to our island," said Margie Artero, a Guam educator.

Doug Olson, a government and history teacher from Salt Lake City, was impressed by the diversity of the Marine Corps.

"I stood there, and I saw Hispanics and African Americans, and I don't know how many other races all doing the same thing. There are no races in the Marine Corps. Everybody is equal," said Olson.

Educators wrapped up the week's visit at a morning colors ceremony at Pendleton Hall, followed by the graduation of the Marine Corps' newest Marines.

"The most impressive thing about this week has been to witness the organization and leadership skills being taught and used here and in the Marine Corps. We are truly impressed," said Edwina Wilson-Snyder, principal of St. Anthony High School in Hawaii.

MCCS career fair brings 70 plus companies to depot

BY LANCE CPL. KAITLYN M. SCARBORO
Chevron staff

The depot Marine Corps Community Services and Career Management offices held a semiannual career fair at the depot Field house, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Seventy companies and organizations from around the United States set up promotional tables while Marines from the local area collected information, asked questions and turned in resumes to potential employers.

"It's never too early to inquire about your future. You don't want to wait until the last minute," said Cpl. Mari Melendez, training noncommissioned officer for Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion.

With 20 months left in the Marine Corps, Melendez attended the career fair with interest in a civilian job-field that offers a military structure, such as law enforcement.

"Being older, I want to focus more on my career and personal life," said Melendez.

Representatives from local law enforcement agencies, reserve units, universities and medical services were available to answer questions.

"The Marines that go out into the city and get jobs come back and recruit

BRIEFS

Post and relief

The Depot Sergeant Major Relief and Appointment Ceremony will take place Feb. 16 at 10 a.m., on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field. During the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Frank E. Pulley will relinquish his post to Sgt. Maj. Bobby B. Woods. All Depot Personnel are encouraged to attend this event.

National Prayer Breakfast

Recruit Training Regiment will host this year's National Prayer Breakfast at the depot. Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, is scheduled to be the guest speaker. The prayer breakfast will be held at Duncan Hall from 7 to 8:30 a.m., Feb. 17. For more information, call the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion chaplain's office at (619) 524-5640.

Horseshoes tourney

Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit division will host the Commanding General's Cup Horseshoes Tournament Feb. 22 at the depot boat house. There will be a coaches' meeting Monday in the Phillips Hall athletics office. The event is open to all depot active duty personnel and Department of Defense employees. For more information, call Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548.

SEND BRIEFS TO jess.levens@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

Inside the armory: movie weapons

BY JOANNA McDONALD
Contributing writer

Many visitors to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Museum come to a screeching halt when they peer through the secured door of the armory where hundreds of weapons from all eras are on display. Some may be unique to the visitor, even to Marine guests.

When you peruse the room, it's difficult to miss one weapon hanging prominently at the forefront, right wall. It has an unusually long magazine. Someone may say, "Hey, I think I have seen that weapon in movies." They may even realize it is of German origin. Their next question, "What is it called and why is it in this museum? Did Marines fight against this weapon in World War II?"

The German infantry weapon is the infamous Schmeisser MP-40 9 mm submachine gun commonly known as the "Burp Gun," due to the sound it made when each shot was fired. It has a rate of fire of 80 to 90 rounds per minute, a cyclic rate of 518 rpm and is air-cooled, blowback operated.

The feeding mechanism is a 32 round straight clip, and it fires a 9 mm round. It weighs 10 pounds, 7 ounces and has a range of approximately 200 yards. There were more than a million, of all variants of the Schmeisser, guns turned out from 1938 to 1945.

While much is known concerning the significant battles of the Pacific Theatre in World War II, it is often overlooked that Marines fought against the Germans and Italians in that same war. One of the most decorated Marine officers who served in the European Theatre was Col. Peter Julien Ortiz.

Some Marines saw vital security base duty, or were attached to flag ships in Europe; others were assigned to covert activities with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, a pre-cursor to the United States' CIA).

Captain Peter J. Ortiz served with this famous organization and had quite an adventurous, even flamboyant,

history. More than once he came up against the German Schmeisser.

He was born in New York, but educated in France. At the age of 19, he joined the famed French Foreign Legion in 1932. While fighting the Germans in 1940 he was wounded and captured. He escaped and made his way back to the United States.

For many, that would have been the end of a military career, but not for Ortiz. Upon his arrival to America, he joined the Marines. Because of his training and experience, he was commissioned an officer and assigned special duty as an assistant naval attaché in Tangier, Morocco.

While conducting combat intelligence in preparation for the Allied landings in North Africa, Ortiz was wounded for the second time. He recovered, and in 1943, as a member of the OSS, he was dropped by parachute into France to aid the resistance. He helped rescue four downed Royal Air Force pilots. In 1944 Ortiz's luck ran out, and he was recaptured by the Germans.

He remained a prisoner for the rest of the war, yet survived to rise to the rank of colonel. His decorations include two Navy Crosses, the Legion of Merit, the Order of the British Empire and five Croix de Guerre. The French also honored him by making him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

When Peter J. Ortiz returned to the United States and civilian life, the Hollywood industry heard about his unique military career. Two Hollywood films were made based on his service: 13 Rue Madeline in 1946 and Operation Secret in 1952. He died on May 16, 1988, and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

For more information about Ortiz, see A Different War: Marines In Europe and North America: Marines In World War II Commemorative Series, by retired Lt. Col. Harry W. Edwards. Drop by MCRD Command Museum Archives for further information about United States Marine Corps History.

'I'm a So. Cal boy, through and through'

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

Throughout my life, I haven't ventured far from home. My home is in Southern California, and places that stray from the usual sunshine and dry, warm weather do not appeal to me.

My family migrated from the far-off land of Indianapolis with my sister less than a year before I was born. I look back and think to myself, "Was this predestined?" No one has been able to find an answer to that.

Recently, I ventured to Glenwood Springs, Colo., a town not more than 40 minutes away from Aspen. It was an 18-hour drive from San Diego – my first reason for not liking it.

We stopped in at a local Wal-Mart, and as I walked in through the electric doors, a customer was leaving. This man was possibly in his late 60s or 70s, but he still had enough strength in him to grow an incredibly long mullet and put on what looked to be like the only plaid overcoat he had worn in years. I came to that conclusion from the dirty stains and such. What caught my attention was this fellow glancing at me through the corner of his eye as if I had the mullet and the weird jacket.

I began to ask myself, "Am I still on earth?" I left that behind when we got to Aspen. My mission was to follow single Marines to the X-Games and capture images with a story to follow. I did both.

While the X-Games were entertaining and the event might have changed Aspen's atmosphere for the event, something wasn't right.

The sun was shining beautifully outside, but it was still below 30 degrees. There was snow all over

the place and people were still walking around in T-shirts. I tend to shy away from T-shirts when I am walking through more than six inches of snow.

I missed the beaches. There wasn't one place to go in Colorado where I could lay on the sand and listen to the waves crash. After 20 years, that sound becomes a part of you. Even beyond the weather, the people seemed to be a whole new breed.

Besides the mullet man, I noticed hooded snow jackets with fur around the hood was a fashion ... for the men!

People know me when they see me. As hard as it is to mistake a 79-inch tall man with caramel skin, hazel eyes and curly brown hair, the clothes did nothing, but to further separate me from the average Colorado native.

Snow boots, snow pants and snow jackets outfitted many of the winter enthusiasts. I was wearing a few of the articles of clothing that Southern California is known for – old school Converse shoes and a Dickies suit. While most of the folk out there would prefer a beanie and some boots, give me an L.A. Dodgers fitted cap and some Chuck Taylor's.

Snowy winters and humid summers seem to be popular out there. The one thing that enticed me about Colorado was its beauty. Scattered snow lying on the mountaintops with the sun glaring off it was something to inspire an artist. But it was still cold.

The change in elevation gave me an ear infection from too much pressure build up and I ruined a good pair of shoes. I have experienced Colorado and some of what it has to offer, but I will take the beaches and bikinis over snowboards and skis any day. I am a child of California, my momma will tell you that. Forget Colorado, it's better over here.

Chicken and fox show core values still hold true

BY NAVY CAPT. J. W. POOLE
Depot chaplain

In the process of making young men and women of character into Marines, one of the things we must do to be successful is to inculcate them with Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment. Reflecting on the need to instill Marine Corps values as a way of life brings to mind a childhood story I once read. The story took place on a farm and it was a conversation between a fox and a chicken.

One day as the chicken was strolling around the yard, along came the fox. When the chicken saw the fox coming, it flew up into the nearby tree. The fox, cognizant of the chicken's anxiety over its presence, said in a calm reassuring voice, "Come down out of the tree. I will not harm you."

"No," said the chicken.

The fox asked, "Have you not heard about the agreement reached by all the animals at the meeting?"

"What meeting?" said the chicken.

"The meeting of all the animals around the farm," explained the fox. "We met and decided that no animal would harm another animal so that we can all live without fear and in a peaceful and supportive community. Come down. I will not hurt you," the fox entreated.

As the chicken prepared to come down out of the tree, the bark of the farm dog could be heard in the distance, "Woof, woof!" The chicken noticed that at the sound of the dog barking the fox began to get nervous. The dog kept barking, "Woof, woof!" as it ran at a rapid pace toward them. Then the chicken noticed the fox starting to back off and run toward the woods.

"Why are you afraid of the dog?" asked the chicken. "Wasn't he at the meeting where all the animals agreed to live in peace?"

"Yes, he was at the meeting all right," replied the fox. "But you know some of these animals got no respect for one another or the rules."

I shared this story to remind each of us that when we joined the Marine Corps-Navy Team, we agreed to live by higher ethical and moral standards than the average American citizen. As representatives of the United States Marine Corps and Navy, we are to be people of honor, courage and commitment 24-hours a day, not just when we happen to be in uniform or think someone is watching.

As persons of faith, who also are professional military leaders entrusted with the security of our nation, we are accountable for ensuring that where we work, our words and actions create and fosters a professional environment. One where every member of the team, regardless of gender, race, class, cultural background or creed, can work to their maximum potential and thereby fully contribute to mission readiness and accomplishment.

If there are those among us who choose not to faithfully live up to Marine core values of honor, courage and commitment, because they have no respect for the dignity and worth of other human beings – who are different and yet equally created in the image of God – we as leaders have a moral and legal obligation to do the right thing even in the face of personal and professional adversity.

My challenge is that if you see the core values of the Marine Corps and Navy Team being compromised by some sly fox, take immediate action to correct the situation. Let us hold one another accountable to always be faithful when it comes to doing the right thing even in the face of personal and professional adversity.

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Xtreme Marines

Single Marines visit X-Games in Aspen

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

Some depot Marines and the depot Single Marine Program coordinator took a trip across three states to enjoy the 2006 Winter X-Games in Aspen, Colo. from Jan. 27 to Feb. 1.

While fun was a big part of the trip, Lowell Muenchau had other plans for the SMP president, vice president and scribe.

"It was a special privilege for the counsel members," said Muenchau. "The purpose was to put them in a completely different environment and see how they react under different situations, how they handle themselves. It worked out well. All the Marines handled themselves professionally outside a military installation. That's what I was looking for."

"I made this a scouting trip as well to see if future SMP trips would be successful in Aspen." The 2006 Winter X-Games took place on

Buttermilk Mountain from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, with events like Super Pipe snowboarding, which is a mound of snow shaped into a half-pipe. There was also snowboard and ski slope-style competition, along with motocross and snowmobile races.

"The X-Games is exactly the demographics for SMP, people between 18 and 25," said Muenchau.

After a 16-hour drive, the group arrived early Jan. 28.

"The drive was probably one of the best parts," said Cpl. Nick Galvin, SMP President. "Talking and laughing with the guys was a good time in itself."

Galvin has been stationed on the depot for the better part of his enlistment and looks forward to taking part in upcoming trips SMP has to offer.

"It gives Marines a good reason to get out of the barracks and experience things they usually wouldn't do – drive to Aspen and watch the X-Games," said Galvin.

After the events concluded on Jan. 28, Muenchau and Lance Cpl. Ryan Crummey, SMP vice president, went back to Aspen to watch Damon Marley perform at a live concert.

On Jan. 30, the counsel went to the slopes to watch as the men's Snowboard Super Pipe finals took place. Many of the event's competitors, such as Sean White, are going on to compete in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

At the end of the night, the group walked around town and enjoyed themselves at a small club atmosphere where The Meditations played reggae music.

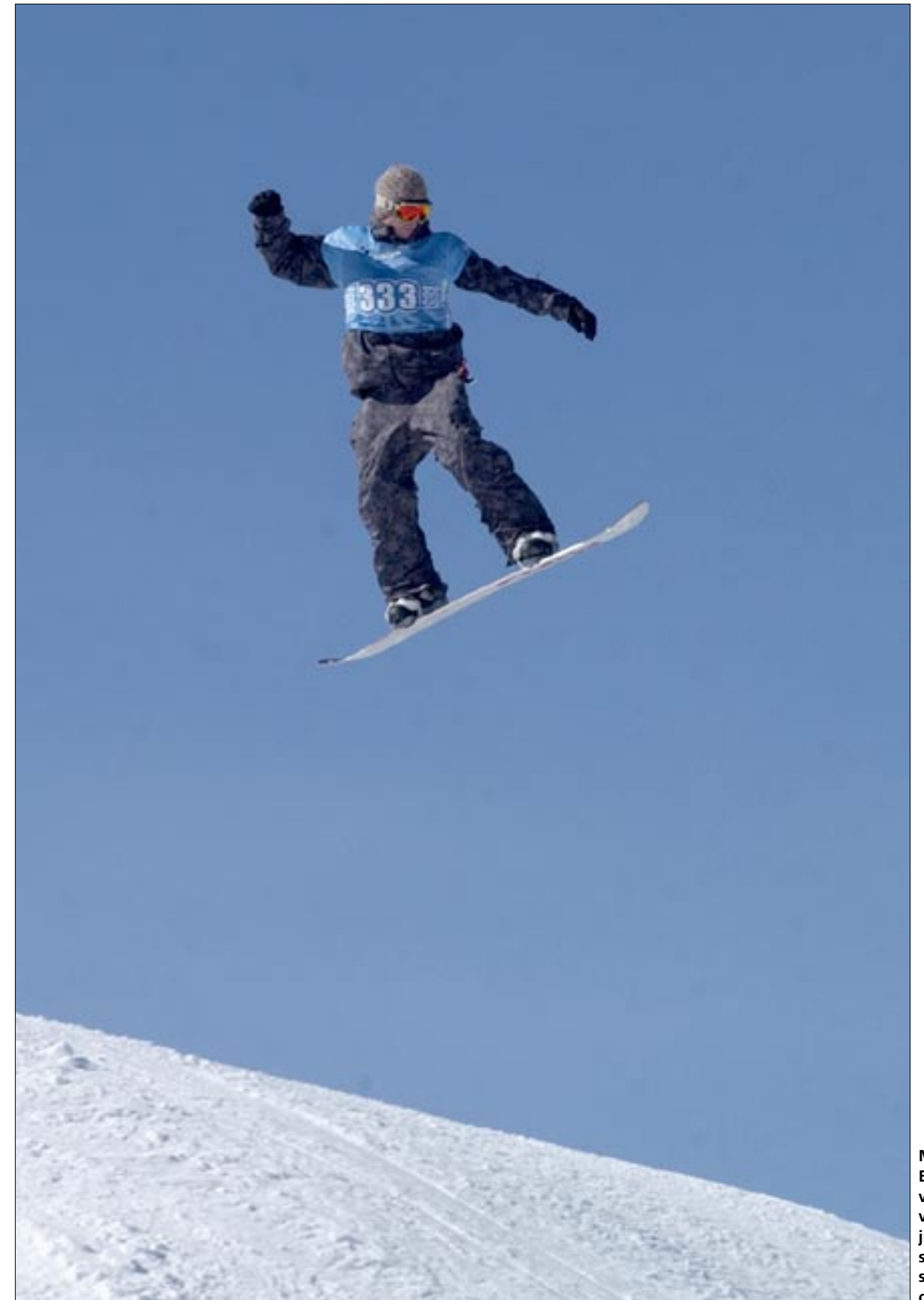
The success of this trip may lead to other Colorado opportunities for the SMP program, according to Muenchau.

"There is a possibility of us going back and taking a larger group up there," said Muenchau.

Muenchau said river rafting, camping and mountain biking might be included in a summer trip to Colorado in the future.



Colorado and its snow-capped Rocky Mountains were the scene for the latest Single Marine Program trip and this year's Winter X-Games



Marines visited Buttermilk Mountain, where snow boarders were hitting the long jumps. The men's snow board slope-style competition was one of the first.



Lance Cpl. Ryan Crummey, Single Marine Program vice president, waits as the super pipe is being prepared for the X-Games night events Jan. 28. The men's Super Pipe competition came to an end on Jan. 31.

Snowmobile races were one of the louder events that captivated spectators. Each race ended after one rider finished five full laps around the track. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

NO FUNNY BUSINESS

Co. C's 'Bling King' learned more than brass shining

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

Fond memories of his past used to run through his dreams. Now it is cadence and the sound of drill instructors counting down. "I had a bunch of dirt bikes," said Pvt. Michael Smith, Platoon 1158, Company C. "I would put my TL 125 trails bike in neutral and roll it out through the back fence and then start it so my grandma couldn't hear. I rode it to school in the mornings."

This was one of the fondest memories Smith had before he came in to the Marine Corps.

"I used to dream about that. Now I dream about drill and getting on line," said Smith.

A native of Eugene, Ore., Smith said he didn't think he was going to leave for Marine Corps recruit training at 18 years old.

Losing both of his parents before adolescence, Smith lived with different members of his family until he came to settle with his grandmother when he was 13.

After high school, Smith worked odd jobs until a Marine Corps recruiter noticed him on a pull-up bar.

"I was doing some pull-ups when a recruiter asked me what my name was," said Smith. "I gave him my number and he wouldn't stop calling me."

Three months later, Smith enlisted in the Corps. He didn't know what he was getting into.

"The History Channel gave me all my knowledge on the Marine Corps," said Smith.

By October, Smith was on a plane headed to San Diego. For the next three months, his likes, dislikes, haircut and clothes would change.



Pvt. Michael Smith, Platoon 1158, Company C, joined the Marine Corps a few months after a recruiter discovered him doing pull-ups. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

"He came in as a regular Joe," said Sgt. Humberto Delrio, drill instructor, Platoon 1158. "He didn't really have a lot of upper body strength."

The recruit squad bay was a big change in atmosphere for Smith.

"A bed, a roof, three meals a day and free clothes – well, they explained that I paid for the uniforms, but I never saw the money, so it was free. I liked it," said Smith.

"(First phase) is just the breakdown," said Sgt. Trevlis L. Hunter, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1158. "We take away from all of their extra attitude, being a civilian. It is an introduction to the Marine Corps."

Smith found that he worked well with the Brasso, a cleaning chemical for metal parts in the squad bay.

"Here, I was given the title 'Bling King,'" said Smith. "I take that Brasso

and make everything shine. I shined the (eyelets) on my cartridge belt, everything. I asked if I could Brasso my rifle but they said no."

Going into the first phase of training didn't really frighten Smith. "I saw a lot of other recruits who weren't in as good a shape as I was," he said. "Its like a competition here. Whoever is not the fastest gets hemmed up. The only thing that scared me was being away from home."

There was a point in training when Smith thought he might get dropped. During rifle qualifications, Smith attempted to score a 190 or higher multiple times before he successfully passed.

After the qualification came the Crucible. Smith said it was one of the best parts of training.

"We got to see who was weak ... and it wasn't me," said Smith. "I learned a

lot of Marine Corps history, too. Reaching the top of the Reaper, I felt like I was already graduating."

Third phase was the beginning of the end for recruits. During this phase, recruits come back to the depot with new haircuts that signify their accomplishments in training and also receive more freedom and independence from their platoons. This is the last step before graduation.

Smith said sometimes the drill instructors would task their recruits with something and leave them alone. "When we are doing something and not being counted down, I count myself down like 60, 59, 55, 44, 43 ..." said Smith. "If I get to zero and I am not done, I just say 'damn,' and keep going."

At the end of training, Smith was awarded the title of "Most Improved Recruit."

"It was because of his attitude," said Hunter. "When he got here, he was all about himself. He didn't understand how recruit training worked."

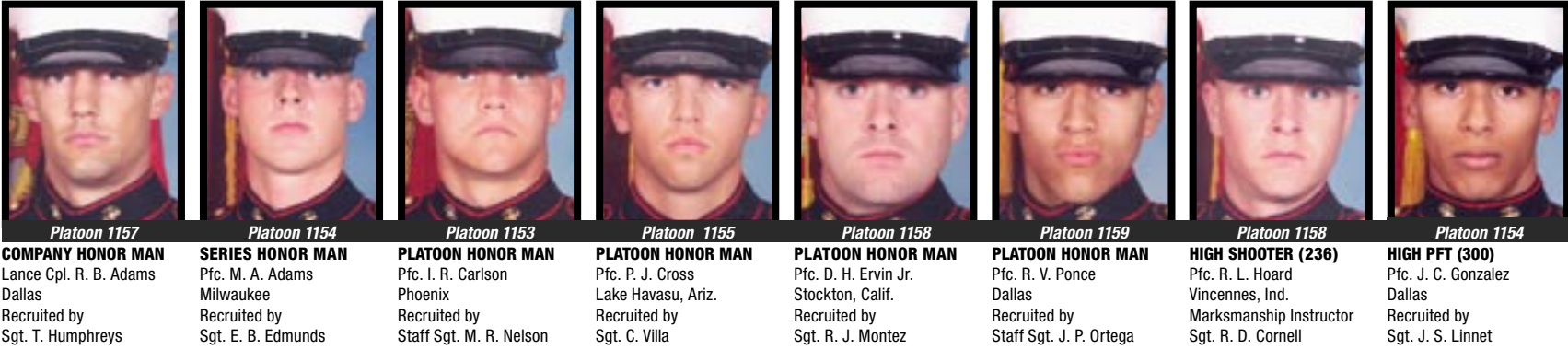
Since the beginning of boot camp, Smith has made drastic changes in efforts to help others and improve his own appearance, according to Hunter.

"He always wants to be better. I see it in him," said Hunter. "Not like he needs approval, but he wants to show us that he can do better."

Smith said his company commander, 1st Lt. Bradley J. Khaner, mentioned he would do well in the Corps. "That was really motivational," said Smith.

"I don't know too much about the fleet, but if drill instructors are supposed to hate everybody and they like me, I think that I will make it all right," said Smith.

A quick set of pull-ups led him to a Marine Corps recruiter, and Smith's eagle, globe and anchor will stay with him for the rest of his life.



CHARLIE COMPANY



Company C men allowed the edge dressing their shoes to dry before the battalion commander's uniform inspection, which is one of a recruit's last graduation requirements. Sgt. Ashley Unfried/Chevron

These are America's newest Marines and their leaders at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Company C graduates 284 men today:

FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer Lt. Col. B. D. Kerl
Sergeant Major Sgt. Maj. A. A. Spadaro
Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. E. S. West
Battalion Drill Master Staff Sgt. C. C. Krusemark

COMPANY C
Commanding Officer Capt. J. E. Logan III
Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. C. E. Burnett

SERIES 1153
Series Commander Capt. R. W. Owen III
Series Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. E. Moreno Jr.

SERIES 1157
Series Commander 1st Lt. B. J. Khaner
Series Chief Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. R. Moreno

PLATOON 1153
Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. A. Davey
Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. C. R. Pancake
Sgt. J. C. Haglund
Sgt. M. A. Moore Jr.

Pfc. E. C. Alvarado
*Pfc. B. R. Angulo
Pfc. L. A. Argueta
Pvt. A. G. Ashley
Pvt. J. M. Avila
Pvt. M. A. Barlow
Pvt. J. W. Bason
Pvt. M. S. Bass
Pvt. C. G. Bowers
*Pfc. J. S. Bridges
Pvt. D. M. Broach
Pfc. H. J. Brunsvold
Pvt. D. D. Caldwell Jr.
Pvt. M. A. Callaway
Pvt. A. J. Camargo
*Pfc. I. R. Carlson
Pvt. C. M. Carter
Pvt. J. S. Cawley
Pvt. S. K. Chester
Pfc. T. Chief
Pfc. T. S. Chung
Pfc. S. A. Coleman
Pfc. E. A. Cuarema
Pfc. B. J. Evans
Pvt. J. E. Fairchild
Pfc. C. L. Frazier
Pfc. B. J. Frees
Pvt. J. A. Garciatinajero
Pvt. J. L. Hamm
Pvt. S. E. Hamm

Pfc. D. D. Harrison
Pvt. J. A. Heier
Pvt. R. M. Henshaw
Pvt. M. T. House
Pvt. W. M. Hughes
Pvt. J. W. Hunsucker
Pvt. N. S. Husain
Pvt. B. K. Johnson
Pfc. M. R. Josey
Pvt. M. J. Kaspschak
Pvt. M. J. Le
Pvt. S. D. Little
Pvt. G. M. Livengood
Pfc. P. A. Marquardt
Pvt. J. M. Phillips
Pfc. D. M. Sirovica

PLATOON 1154
Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. A. G. Naranjo
Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. A. Glenn II
Staff Sgt. G. L. Vega
Sgt. D. L. Vasquez

*Pfc. M. A. Adams
Pvt. M. R. Adkins
Pvt. C. B. Barnett
Pvt. D. T. Boone
Pvt. J. N. Brewer
Pvt. A. M. Brown
Pfc. J. Calderon
Pfc. F. L. Captain Jr.
Pfc. R. Cardenas Jr.
Pfc. J. Cervantes
Pvt. C. P. Chakeen
Pvt. J. J. Chaney
Pvt. D. Chappell
Pvt. S. S. Chatterjee
Pvt. S. M. Chicoine
Pvt. K. D. Christian
Pvt. D. L. Conner
Pvt. F. Contreras Jr.
Pvt. J. P. Crumley
Pvt. F. Cuevas Jr.
Pfc. B. L. Dains
Pvt. J. W. Darby
Pvt. D. R. Deanda
Pvt. A. T. Degraffinreadit
Pvt. N. Dunning
Pfc. J. B. Elliott
Pvt. M. W. Elliott III
Pfc. B. M. Ellison
Pvt. K. L. Ewert
Pvt. J. Floreslopez
Pfc. B. K. Ford
Pfc. M. Garcia Jr.
Pvt. D. A. Giles
Pfc. J. C. Gonzalez
Pvt. J. V. Gross
Pvt. Z. T. Harding
Pvt. M. Hardmon IV
Pfc. A. Hernandez
Pvt. T. K. Hoefft
Pvt. J. Hov
Pvt. R. W. Hughey
Pfc. M. Izatas
Pfc. C. C. Jannings
Pfc. B. D. Jones
Pfc. J. D. Jordan
Pfc. M. S. King
Pvt. D. Shin

PLATOON 1157
Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. J. F. Lopez
Drill Instructors Sgt. A. N. Davison
Sgt. D. Elizondo
Sgt. R. Chacon

*Lance Cpl. R. B. Adams
*Pfc. J. J. Albrecht
Pvt. D. A. Amburn Jr.
Pvt. J. L. Aragon
Pvt. A. D. Batteredon
Pfc. R. O. Bernal
Pvt. F. Cardenas
Pvt. J. Ceballos
Pvt. F. Cruz
Pvt. D. D. Curtis
Pfc. E. D. Denny

PLATOON 1155
Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. A. L. Vallette
Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. M. Tueichi
Gunnery Sgt. M. R. Chabot
Gunnery Sgt. D. T. Robinson
Sgt. R. A. Claunch

Pvt. M. P. Anton
Pvt. G. A. Ayala
Pvt. J. M. Belanger
Pvt. R. E. Bridges
Pvt. M. J. Bryan
*Pfc. R. G. Cabello
Pfc. J. A. Clark
*Pfc. C. B. Claspille
Pfc. C. W. Clymer
Pvt. P. T. Couture
*Pfc. P. J. Cross
Pvt. E. D. Cruz
Pvt. J. R. Del Villar
Pvt. K. V. Prieto
Pvt. M. Dudley
Pvt. T. S. Estell
Pvt. S. S. Evans
Pvt. S. D. Galli
Pvt. F. B. Hanken
Pvt. G. R. Heard
*Pfc. J. Hernandez
Pvt. F. M. Jimenez
Pvt. J. C. Juarez
Pvt. J. P. Kaminski
Pvt. C. W. Kaufman
Pvt. C. M. Lafontaine
Pvt. L. Larios
Pvt. J. O. Melendez
Pvt. M. A. Montero
Pvt. D. J. New
Pvt. T. A. Panistaaaq
Pvt. J. L. Wiggs
Pfc. L. M. Williamson
Pvt. M. P. Winkler
Pvt. K. E. Wolverton
Pvt. F. A. Zamora
Pvt. R. G. Zygo

Pvt. M. D. Draves
Pfc. C. S. Feger
*Pfc. R. D. Ferrin
Pfc. R. A. Finlay
Pvt. J. A. Garcia
Pvt. T. L. Goff
Pvt. M. R. Gurule
Pvt. B. A. Hartmon
*Pfc. A. S. Hoke
Pvt. A. C. Holmes
Pvt. M. A. Infante
Pvt. N. Jahn
Pvt. T. Johnson
Pfc. S. R. Lawrence
Pvt. O. Lockheart
Pvt. A. J. McCune
Pfc. J. A. Medley
Pvt. J. L. Mills
Pvt. J. T. Moebius
Pfc. A. M. Obregon Jr.
Pvt. J. L. Penate Jr.
Pfc. T. D. Plowman
Pvt. K. V. Prieto
Pvt. R. F. Reirson
Pfc. A. R. Relopez
Pvt. S. E. Ross
Pfc. A. I. Siapno
Pvt. J. Silva
*Pfc. T. A. Smith
Pvt. J. H. Snyder
Pvt. P. A. Sommer
Pvt. T. Zorn

PLATOON 1158
Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. T. L. Hunter
Drill Instructors Sgt. H. Deliohernandez
Sgt. D. R. Belec
Sgt. J. C. Fazica

Pvt. J. M. Bailey
Pvt. A. R. Borders
Pfc. N. D. Cox
Pvt. M. R. Davis
Pvt. M. J. Davis
*Pfc. D. H. Ervin Jr.
Pfc. A. G. Franco
Pvt. S. M. Garcia
Pvt. J. W. Garrett
Pfc. G. A. Garrison
Pvt. J. L. Griffith III
Pvt. J. Hernandez
*Pfc. R. L. Hoard
Pfc. A. R. Killey
Pvt. D. P. Loring
Pfc. K. Maldonado
Pvt. M. R. McCall
Pvt. W. E. McLaughlin
Pvt. B. R. Milam
Pvt. C. D. Misrasi
Pvt. M. A. Moreno
Pvt. R. I. Moreno
Pvt. J. D. Morris Jr.
Pfc. J. D. Noble
Pvt. N. J. Pappas
Pvt. C. J. Portling
Pvt. W. R. Presley
Pvt. E. A. Ramirez
Pvt. L. E. Ramirezperdomo
Pfc. S. A. Ramirezruiz
Pvt. L. D. Santacruz
Pvt. J. D. Schenck
Pvt. S. R. Scott JR.
Pvt. M. J. Sellers

Pvt. C. D. Simon
Pfc. G. L. Sistas
Pvt. M. R. Smith
Pvt. J. S. Stafford
Pfc. S. D. Stafford
*Pfc. C. E. Trebus
Pvt. J. C. Trottingwolf
Pvt. C. J. Valsey
Pfc. S. M. Van Dyke
Pfc. D. Vang
Pfc. J. P. Viane
*Pfc. C. Walker JR.
Pvt. D. S. Walker
Pvt. T. R. Walls
Pvt. M. A. Watts
*Pfc. J. D. Weathers
Pvt. C. F. White

Pvt. M. D. Draves
Pfc. C. S. Feger
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Pfc. A. I. Siapno
Pvt. J. Silva
*Pfc. T. A. Smith
Pvt. J. H. Snyder
Pvt. P. A. Sommer
Pvt. T. Zorn

PLATOON 1159
Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. C. B. Bull
Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. J. L. Rich
Staff Sgt. J. L. Conner
Sgt. J. L. Valdez

Pfc. R. D. Duersen
Pfc. D. C. Hubert
Pvt. A. H. Kurahashi
Pvt. W. D. Lamb
Pvt. X. P. Lee
Pfc. J. M. Leschber
Pfc. C. P. Leuer
Pvt. S. T. Littledeer
Pvt. T. D. Long
Pvt. J. C. Loreda
Pvt. J. M. Mahan
Pvt. M. T. Maorino
Pvt. S. T. Malin
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Pvt. P. J. Parker
Pvt. M. R. Picard
Pfc. R. V. Ponce
Pfc. M. R. Radniecki
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Pvt. A. D. Salinas
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Pvt. L. F. Rotter
Pvt. A. D. Salinas
Pvt. J. P. Sall

Pvt. W. A. Stampfl
Pvt. J. W. Stamps
Pvt. M. J. Studer
Pvt. A. M. Taylor
Pfc. J. L. Twork
Pfc. E. B. Vallejo
Pvt. J. M. Vandermolen
Pfc. R. A. Vences
Pvt. T. J. Wagner
Pvt. F. D. Wallman
Pvt. M. L. Willis
Pvt. J. L. Winegarner
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Pvt. F. D. Wallman
Pvt. M. L. Willis
Pvt. J. L. Winegarner
Pvt. D. J. Weber

*Meritorious promotion



A Company C recruit stands waiting for the battalion commander to inspect his uniform. Sgt. Ashley Unfried/Chevron

Sgt. Maj. Ralph H. Drake

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Sergeant Major Ralph H. Drake enlisted in the Marine Corps in July 1979 and underwent recruit training here.

Upon graduation from boot camp, he reported to Infantry Training School, Camp Pendleton, Calif., for training as a machine-gunner. In December 1979, he was assigned to Marine Barracks Hawaii as a guard. He served with guard companies at Pearl Harbor and Barber's Point. During this time period, he was promoted up to the rank of sergeant, and he performed duties as a guard, corporal of the guard, sergeant of the guard and platoon sergeant.

Released from active duty in July 1982, Drake reenlisted in October 1982, and he was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, and then 1st Force Service Support Group as a legal services specialist. He reported to Drill Instructor School, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, in October 1984. While at the depot, he was assigned to Company B and served consecutively as a drill instructor,

senior drill instructor, and chief drill instructor.

In January 1988, Drake transferred to Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Base Okinawa, Japan. He returned to San Diego in January 1989 and performed duties as a chief drill instructor, battalion drill master, regimental drill master and leadership instructor for Drill Instructor School.

Upon completion of this tour, Drake was transferred to Headquarters and Service Bn., 2nd FSSG, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was selected for first sergeant in March of 1993. In May 1993, he assumed the duties as first sergeant, Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 2nd Maintenance Bn. During this time he also served as the first sergeant for CSSD-25 during Express Sword 2-93 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

In December 1994, he was reassigned to duties as the first sergeant, Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group-26, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. From August 1995 through February 1996 the 26th MEU deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as part of Landing

Force Sixth Fleet and to the Adriatic Sea in support of contingency operations in the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

Upon selection to the rank of sergeant major, he was transferred to 3rd Medical Bn., 3rd FSSG in June 1996. He was subsequently transferred to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and served as the sergeant major of Marine Air Support Squadron-1 from May 1997 through May 2000. During this period, he deployed to Evenes, Norway, as the sergeant major, 2nd MAW, in support of exercise Strong Resolve-98.

In June 2000, he assumed the duties as sergeant major, Headquarters and Service Bn., 3rd FSSG. In June 2003, he was posted as the sergeant major for 2nd FSSG. From June 2003 through September 2003, he deployed to Kuwait to serve as the sergeant major for the Maritime Prepositioning Force, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force. From March 2004 through June 2004, he deployed to Haiti as the sergeant major for the Combined Joint Task Force-Haiti.

In December 2004, he assumed his current duties as sergeant major, Training



and Education Command.

Drake's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars in lieu of fourth award and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a gold star in lieu of second award.

Service Co., Big Blue stay on course for title game

BY PVT. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

Emerging competition and rivalries sparked during the depot’s Commanding General’s Cup volleyball season semi-finals at Murphy Field House Tuesday.

Opening the first game, Service Company played Recruit Training Regiment’s 3rd Battalion.

Service Co. won the first game 25-14, but the second game proved to be harder for Service Co. when Big Blue came from behind to win 27-26. In the third game, Service Co. took the tie-breaker 15-11.

“It was really fun. My team put forth a lot of good effort,” said Capt. Bryan R. McClune, 3rd Bn. “We haven’t played together very long, but we are getting better.”

In the second game, an undefeated Coast Guard Pacific Area Tactical Law Enforcement Team beat the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team to move on and play Service Co. for a spot in the championship.

“It’s going to be a very challenging game because many of our key players are going to be gone,” said Lt. j.g. Darren L. Clemons, PACTLET. “It will be interesting.”

In the third game, Big Blue eliminated MSST in a two-match victory, 25-21 and 25-3, automatically clutching a spot in the championship.

The championship game for the CG’s Cup volleyball season will be held at Murphy Field House Feb. 14 at 9 a.m.



Lance Cpl. Jason L. Silva, 3rd Battalion, serves the ball to Service Company.



Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner, Service Company, rejects a 3rd Battalion player during the first game. *Pvt. Charlie Chavez/Chevron photos*



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean P. Macnamara, Pacific Area Tactical Law Enforcement Team, sends a spike home over Lt. Cmdr. Mark Eyler, Maritime Safety Security Team, during the second match Tuesday.